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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *April 1987*

New Computers Delivered for GIS

"It's necessary to keep the horse alive while we build a new barn."

That is Bob Moore's way of referring to BLM's enhancement and maintenance of existing computer systems even as we develop plans to replace them in several years.

As Service Center Director, he has had a key management role determining what short-term investments to recommend to the BLM Management Team, and what "nice to have" procurements should be postponed until Modernization.

It's on that basis BLM decided to procure new computers for more states and the SC to use Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Alaska, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming have been using the MOSS family of software, running on computers manufactured by Data General, for nearly five years. Other states now want to do the same and don't want to wait for the "new barn" to be built.

So BLM joined with most other DOI agencies using GIS and, via a competitive contract, is buying new computers manufactured by Prime, Inc. State Offices receiving these computers are New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Oregon, as well as the SC.

New computers will be operating a revised version of MOSS software that was rewritten to work on the Primes. Delivery is expected mid-April.

The ALMRS/GIS Project Office has been responsible for maintaining the MOSS software and administering the Prime contract.

The contract provides BLM the option of buying smaller Prime computers for District and Area offices lacking special computer rooms in the State Offices.

ADP Acquisition

ADP equipment, software and service (ADPE) acquisition is subject to the same regulations that govern all Government procurement. But, a unique set of regulations specifically for ADPE procurements also apply. As a result, substantial "lead times" are often required to meet user needs.

The time spent obtaining approval to acquire ADPE is one example. Depending on the dollar value of requested acquisitions, final approval authority may reside in the State Office, Headquarters (WO-770), the Department, or the General Services Administration. This dollar value, in turn, depends on the type of acquistion being requested. For example, different values apply to purchased equipment, leased equipment, purchased software services or maintenance services.

Technical review and recommendation responsibilities for "general purpose" ADPE lie in the Branch of Technical Support (D-254), while graphics related equipment is the responsibility of the Branch of GIS Development (D-154).

Some considerations to help the procurement process function as smoothly as possible include:

- Plan procurement requirements in advance to allow sufficient lead time.
- Coordinate needs early in the process with the ADP Coordinator and procurement staff. Understand the steps in the procurement process before beginning an acquisition.
- Perform a market survey to see what is available; define requirements in terms of the function to be performed, not a specific hardware device.
- Field users should coordinate ADPE activities with their Information Services Mangers, while SC users should call the Branch of Technical Support for assistance.

Shirley Hudson: Adventurer

Shirley Hudson of Resources, biked the backroads of Yugoslavia and Austria for 3 weeks this fall. Here are some impressions and highlights of her trip.

Austria

Austrian Airlines served breakfast (with two cups of coffee) on a one hour flight. Such efficiency.

- Does everyone drive a Mercedes?
- I've never seen so many cyclists!
- Why are all these people staring at me? Probably the helmet.
- But the map shows the road continuing. Why is it stopping on the top of the pass?
- Can this road really be 16% for a whole kilometer? (No, only 9/10ths of a kilometer, then it slacked off to 10%.)
- How do they know I speak English before I open my mouth?

Oh dear, I ran over a snake. (I hate snakes!)

Yugoslavia

- Milk comes in plastic bags. There's no low fat milk. There's no low fat anything! But, the people are slimmer than the Austrians.
- Wonder how we find a grocery store? (Look for the wine crates outside).
- Wonder what they are going to do with all those plums they're picking? (Make *sljivovica* - plum brandy.)
- Is an ice cream really only 13 cents?
- I finally found the bathroom, but I don't know if I'm a *Muski* or a *Zenski*. Where is the dictionary and **hurry**.
- Oh look, the nudist beach is separated from the non-nudist beach by a chain-link fence.
- I've never seen such blue water.
- Was that really a lady riding a donkey carrying two live sheep? Yes it was, she was wearing a dress and riding side saddle.
- Does everyone in Yugoslavia smoke cigarettes? No, only 98%.

The seat just fell off my bicycle.

For more on Shirley's trip, come enjoy slides with her April 24, at 11:45 a.m. in the west conference room, Building 50.

Need a Notary?

In Building 50 there are two Notary Publics whose authorizations are primarily kept updated for Service Center business. However, they also offer this service free to all SC employees. The next time you have an important document to be notarized, contact Cathy Davis, X6452 or Chris Jones, X6317.

Wild Horses: A Different View

BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program is hitting the spotlight once again in the form of a heavy workload for the SC Branch of Procurement. The Program, which began in 1971, was designed to preserve, manage, and protect free-roaming horses and burros on public lands as symbols of our heritage. To accomplish this goal many horses and burros must be rounded up and adopted.

The horse and burro roundups are a result of contracts adminsistered from the SC. BLM gathered over 10,000 wild horses from the public lands last fiscal year. Of those, 3,400 have been adopted.

Because of the large numbers of horses and burros rounded up and the small numbers adopted, there aren't enough Government-owned facilities for the excess animals. BLM therefore must contract for holding facilities where horses and burros receive feed, water, veterinarian care, and farrier (hoof trimming) services. Currently there are three such contracts: Bloomfield, NE; Muleshoe, TX; and Lovelock, NV.

The contract followed a lengthy and complicated procurement process 2 years ago. Over 500 interested ranchers in the western United States were invited to submit technical and price proposals; 109 proposals were received. Each was evaluated by a Technical Proposal Committee. Those potential contractors determined to be within a competitive range were given site inspections, which involved three teams traveling by car working 12 hours each day for 14 days.

Following these inspections, each potential contractor was asked to present a best and final offer. After evaluation, contractor selections were made and contracts awarded.

Each facility can hold 3,000 animals. For the past 3 years, all three facilities have been at or near capacity. By the end of FY 87, approximately $15 milion will have been spent under these contracts.

The contracts will expire at the end of this fiscal year, so our SC contracting personnel are once again plunging headlong into new negotiations. Over 600 solicitations have been sent to interested ranchers and the 6-month process is under way. How many proposals will we have this time? Oh dear! Here we go again!

By Irene Clapp & Bob Leonard

PARTICIPATE

Submit news and information for this newsletter to your rep . . .

D-100 Cathy Davis	6452
D-140 Sheri Bell (Editor)	6406
D-150 William Moody	7059
D-220 Kay Thomas	6531
D-250 Addalee Michael	6566
D-430 Betty Riley	6350
D-470 Eric Janes	0147
D-510 Mike Kluherz	6620
D-530 Pat Holloway	6706
D-550 Bob Woerner	6637

Smokers Need Love Too

Now we smokers feel that we've been abused
While non-smokers seem to be simply amused.
There isn't a place to call all our own,
Our special assigned spots have all been on loan.
We've searched and we've searched to locate a place
For an ashtray, some chairs and some decent space
Where we can relax and just have a smoke
While we sip some coffee and maybe a coke.
We feel that we're hated, resented and more.
We ask for a room and they show us the door.
We feel like outcasts adrift on a raft.
The room that you gave us was really the shaft (elevator that is).

Anonymous

Jan Poorman Receives Award

On February 23, SCD Moore presented a plaque to Janet Poorman for her work as Editor on BLM/Forest Service Interchange Legislative Environment Impact Statement (LEIS). She was detailed to DC to a 12-member ad hoc writing team that developed the LEIS that accompanied the Interchange Proposal presented to Congress in 1986. She organized materials from various states, developed tables and outlines, ensured document compliance with NEPA guidelines, wrote sections and assembled a preliminary document for management review. Congratulations, Jan.

SC Clerical Club

Those patient people plugging away at the Wang, plodding through tons of paperwork and mail, and silencing the ever ringing phones are the heartbeat of the Service Center.

In 1981 this group of VIPs organized the Service Center Clerical Club. They meet quarterly to iron out problems with correspondence and office procedures; take responsibility for managing the various SC receptions and happenings; and for fun treat themselves to a picnic in June.

The group has expanded its horizons by sponsoring regular sales of nuts and candy as well as geraniums in the Spring and poinsettias at Christmastime.

Your generous support of these activities allows the Club to give a gift certificate for children's clothing to a needy family at Eastertime and again in the Fall when school clothes are a must. In December the Club initiated an annual "Come and Visit Santa" party for employees' children and grandchildren.

When you see those fliers for munchies and flowers, remember your continuing support is needed and appreciated.

Free College

What do you think of when you hear of somebody attending college for free... a football hero or perhaps someone with the intellect of an Einstein? Think again.

The Service Center's Education Awards program makes it possible for employees to get a grant of up to $550 for course-work at an accredited college or university. If you're in a dead-end job with a full performance level below a GS-9, you're eligible. Up to six grants will be made.

To get a grant, you must apply. You will be asked to list the courses and career goals these classes will help you attain. There must be a relationship between your goals and SC occupational needs.

The interest announcement for the FY 88 Education Awards has been issued; assistance in filling out applications is available from the EEO office (6-6467) or from Joe Hayashi (6-6705).

Upcoming Events

Diabetes Testing	
Apr 7	Bldg 50-West
American Indian Day Observance	
Apr 8-9	Bldg 50-West/Cent
CPR Training	
Apr 29-30	Bldg 50-West/Cent/East
Asian Pacific Week Observance	
May 6-7	Bldg 50-West/Cent/East

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